

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Roger Leung on February 20, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims, amend the claims as follows:

6. (Currently Amended) An automatic analyzing system according to claim 11, further comprising

a stand-by unit ~~which, for each~~ wherein when any one of the analyzing apparatuses is ~~which have been~~ stopped in order to replace a the corresponding reagent, the stand-by unit places the sample in said one each of the analyzing apparatuses in a stand by state, and the module computers corresponding to other analyzing apparatuses which are not stopped are programmed so as not to stop without ~~stepping~~ the analysis of the entire system during a time period where the corresponding reagent to be replaced is supplied to said ~~each one~~ one of the analyzing apparatuses which is ~~have been~~ stopped.

7. (Currently Amended) An automatic analyzing system according to claim ~~3~~ 11, further comprising a detector and wherein

when any one ~~for each~~ of the analyzing apparatuses ~~which have been~~ is stopped, the corresponding module computer corresponding to said one each of the analyzing apparatuses which is ~~have been~~ stopped is programmed such that, when receiving a signal from the detector indicating that completion of replacing the corresponding reagent in said one each of the analyzing apparatuses which is ~~have~~

~~been~~ stopped, confirms a remaining amount of the corresponding reagent replaced in said one each of the analyzing apparatuses which is have been stopped before said one each of the analyzing apparatuses is restored to operation.

8. (Currently Amended) An automatic analyzing system according to claim 11, wherein, when any one of the analyzing apparatuses ~~which have been~~ is stopped, the corresponding module computer corresponding to said one each of the analyzing apparatuses which is have been stopped is programmed to confirm automatically, before said one each of the analyzing apparatuses which is have been stopped is restored to operation, whether or not a reagent replaced in said one each of the analyzing apparatuses which is have been stopped coincides with an item for measurement relating to the ~~one~~ corresponding reagent detected to be short for said one each of the analyzing apparatuses which is have been stopped, wherein when the reagent replaced does not coincide with the item, said one each of the analyzing apparatuses which is stopped is not restored to operation.

9. (Currently Amended) An automatic analyzing system according to claim 11, wherein, when any one reagent in any one for each of the analyzing apparatuses ~~in which any of the particular reagents~~ is detected as being short, the corresponding module computer corresponding to said one each of the analyzing apparatuses is programmed to determine a reagent to be exchanged based on an identifier of the one reagent detected to be short and said one each of the analyzing apparatuses in which the one a reagent is detected to be short is automatically stopped.

10. (Currently Amended) An automatic analyzing system according to claim 9, wherein, when any one reagent in any one for each of the analyzing apparatuses ~~in which any of the particular reagents~~ is detected as being short, the corresponding module computer corresponding to said one each of the analyzing apparatuses is programmed to identify the one reagent to be exchanged by automatically confirming, based on the identifier of the one reagent detected to be short.

11. (Currently Amended) An automatic analyzing system which analyzes samples, the automatic analyzing system comprising:

a carry line;

a plurality of analyzing apparatuses, each containing a corresponding reagent, which are disposed along the a carry line;

a reagent shortage detection unit for detecting that the corresponding reagent used in analyzing a sample in any of the analyzing apparatuses is short; and

a management computer for controlling operations of said analyzing system, said management computer including a register unit to register particular reagents in the analyzing system, and the management computer being configured to register any of the analyzing apparatuses in which any one of said particular reagents is detected as being short; and

a plurality of module computers for the plurality of analyzing apparatuses, the plurality of module computers each corresponding to one of the plurality of analyzing apparatuses, each module computer being programmed to stop the corresponding analyzing apparatus in which any one of said particular reagents registered is detected as being short.

12. (Currently Amended) An automatic analyzing system according to claim 11 wherein each module computer is further programmed to continue operation of the corresponding analyzing apparatus when the corresponding reagent has not become insufficient.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 6-12 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not teach nor fairly suggest an apparatus comprising a plurality of analyzing

apparatuses arranged along a carry line; a reagent shortage detection unit; a management computer; a computer module in each of the analyzing apparatuses and each apparatus is capable of being stopped when the reagent therein is detected to be short. However, mean while the remaining apparatuses can continue operating while the reagent that that has been detected as being short is replaced.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian R. Gordon whose telephone number is 571-272-1258. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 1st Fri. Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brian R Gordon/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1797